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Reply To: (213) 738-4601
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October 30, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE SOURCE NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors' Policy 5.100 regarding sole source contracts. It is the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (LACDMH) intent to enter into sole source negotiations with The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, located at 2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 300, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-5940.

The State Department of Mental Health (SDMH) has offered an exceptional opportunity to LACDMH. The SDMH has requested that LACDMH develop a Fiscal Intermediary Agreement for Academic Training between the LACDMH and The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley. This contract will provide stipends to 196 social work students matriculating at 17 colleges/universities throughout the State of California. Los Angeles County has a significant need for social workers trained at the master's level with competencies that support and promote recovery and wellness. LACDMH also has a need for social workers who speak a variety of languages, including Spanish and multiple Asian languages.

The social work stipend project reflects LACDMH's immediate need to increase the number of social workers, not only for its county operated programs, but for its contract agencies, who are trained in a series of competencies based on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Only the Schools/Departments of Social Work that are members of the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) provide training in these competencies. Such competencies support and promote recovery and wellness through independence, hope, personal development and resiliency for children, adults, and older adults with serious emotional and behavioral disorders. Additionally, LACDMH and its contract providers need social workers who are culturally and linguistically competent, provide services that are sensitive and responsive to the needs of local communities, and focus on issues of ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation and religious/spiritual beliefs.

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This contract will allow LACDMH to recruit throughout the State for the best possible candidates to fill numerous MHSA vacancies. As the fiscal intermediary, The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, who has a relationship with CalSWEC, will serve as the agency to write checks to CalSWEC. In turn, CalSWEC will provide stipends to second-year graduate level Masters of Social Work (MSW) students.

The SDMH administered this stipend contract with University of California, Berkeley in Fiscal Years 2005-06 and 2006-07. The State Department of Finance subsequently ruled that SDMH needed to engage in a budget authority approval process in order to continue administering this program at the state level. Because this program is one of many MHSA programs needing to go through this process, SDMH determined that the time line for legislative consideration and approval would jeopardize funding student stipends for the current year. The California Mental Health Directors Association's (CMHDA) Governing Board endorsed this interim plan to ensure this stipend program would be funded this fiscal year. In discussions with SDMH and CMHDA, which occurred in late September 2007, it was agreed that Los Angeles County was the logical choice to take responsibility for this stipend program since it easily has the most student stipends in jeopardy.

SDMH contacted LACDMH in early October 2007 requesting a Fiscal Intermediary Agreement for Academic Training be developed between LACDMH and The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley. The reasons for this request are discussed above. The terms of this agreement will be effective July 1, 2007 and will terminate June 30, 2008.

There will be no need to amend our current performance contract with SDMH since we will not be exceeding the \$269,193,375 total from our current contract with SDMH. LACDMH has the ability to spend, from our existing performance contract, the dollars needed for this Fiscal Intermediary Agreement for Academic Training. The Total Compensation Amount for the Fiscal Intermediary Agreement for Academic Training is \$5,818,340 which will be funded from MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan one-time funding for expenditures associated with academic year 2007-08, i.e., July 2007 through June 2008. These funds are available due to FY 2005-06 implementation delays in the MHSA CSS programs.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two weeks, LACDMH will proceed with negotiating the sole source contract. LACDMH will work closely with both County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing this new agreement.

MJS:ED:ed

c: Health Deputies
Chief Executive Office
County Counsel

Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Dennis Murata